

Ecological Reference Worksheet

MT-NRCS

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Reference site used? No

Date: 04/11/2005 MLRA: 58AC Ecological Site: Wet Meadow 11-14" p.z. This *must* be verified based on soils and climate (see Ecological Site Description). Current plant community *cannot* be used to identify the ecological site.

Indicators. For each indicator, describe the potential for the site. Where possible, (1) use numbers, (2) include expected range of values for above- and below-average years for <u>each</u> community within the reference state (when appropriate), and (3) cite data. Continue descriptions on separate sheet if needed. Weight factors are either 0.5, 1.0 or 2.0. The default factor is 1.0. A maximum of 8 indicators may be changed to 0.5 or 2.0. The rest remain at 1.0.	Wgt. Factor
1. Number and extent of rills: None.	1.0
2. Presence of water flow patterns: None.	1.0
3. Number and height of erosional pedestals or terracettes: None.	1.0
4. Bare ground from Ecological Site Description or other studies (rock, litter, lichen, moss, plant canopy are <i>not</i> bare ground): Bare ground is less than 1% in the reference state.	1.0
5. Number of gullies and erosion associated with gullies: None.	1.0
6. Extent of wind scoured, blowouts and/or depositional areas: None.	1.0
7. Amount of litter movement (describe size and distance expected to travel): None.	1.0
8. Soil surface (top few mm) resistance to erosion (stability values are averages – most sites will show a range of values for both plant canopy and interspaces, if different): Stability values of 6 in all cases.	1.0
9. Soil surface structure and SOM content (include type and strength of structure, and A-horizon color and thickness for both plant canopy and interspaces, if different): <u>On mineral soils</u> (with or without a 1 to 6 inch organic layer): The A-horizon structure is strong granular and is 6 to 24 inches thick. Organic matter is 4-8%. Seasonal water tables are typically at 1.0 to 2.0 feet. <u>On organic soils:</u> The organic layer ranges from 8 to >60 inches thick. Seasonal water tables are typically 0.0 to 1.0 ft.	1.0
10. Effect of plant community composition (relative proportion of different functional groups) & spatial distribution on infiltration & runoff: Deep-rooted native perennial grasslikes and grasses optimize infiltration and runoff.	1.0
11. Presence and thickness of compaction layer (usually none; describe soil profile features which may be mistaken for compaction on this site): None.	1.0
12. Functional/Structural Groups (list in order of descending dominance by above-ground weight using symbols: >>, >, = to indicate much greater than, greater than, and equal to): native perennial grasslikes = native perennial bunch and rhizomatous grasses >> native shrubs = native forbs.	1.0
13. Amount of plant mortality and decadence (include which functional groups are expected to show mortality or decadence): Plant mortality is low; decadence is minimal except in prolonged periods of drought (>5-6 years).	1.0
14. Average percent litter cover (50-80%) and depth (1.0 to 3.0 inches).	1.0
15. Expected annual production (this is TOTAL above-ground production, not just forage production): 4400 – 6700 #/acre.	1.0
16. Potential invasive (including noxious) species (native and non-native). List species which characterize degraded states and which, after a threshold is crossed, “will continue to increase regardless of the management of the site” and may eventually dominate the site: Kentucky/Canada/fowl bluegrasses, redtop, quackgrass, reed canarygrass (may have been seeded), pussytoes, cudweed sagewort, foxtail barley, Canada thistle, dandelion, purple loosestrife, Garrison creeping foxtail (may have been seeded)	1.0
17. Perennial plant reproductive capability: Except in extended periods of drought, plants are able to reproduce sexually or vegetatively.	1.0